

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 1997
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 1997
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1164

Introduced by Assembly Member Wright

February 28, 1997

An act to add Section 11261 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to human services, ~~and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1164, as amended, R. Wright. AFDC: eligibility: employment training.

Existing state law provides for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, pursuant to which qualified families are provided with cash assistance. Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to states that participate in the TANF program.

~~Existing federal law imposes conditions on states for participation in the federal TANF block grant program, including the condition that a certain portion of the recipients of aid under the TANF program participate in certain work activities.~~

This bill would specify that any otherwise eligible individual who is enrolled *at least halftime* in a *specified curriculum that will lead to an associate or baccalaureate degree or in a degree or certificate program* ~~either full time or part time that will lead to employment~~ and meets other work activity requirements shall ~~be eligible for TANF benefits, and shall be eligible for~~, upon request, be provided child care and transportation services, *thereby increasing county responsibilities in the implementation of the AFDC program and resulting in a state-mandated local program.*

Existing law provides for the California Community Colleges and specifies the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would ~~appropriate an unspecified sum from the Federal Trust Fund~~ *provide that funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be provided to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges for the purposes of coordinating and implementing the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 with respect to the educational services provided to recipients of AFDC program benefits who are attending community college.*

The bill would also declare the intent of the Legislature to have California Community Colleges serve as ~~the vehicle~~ *one of several means* to provide necessary employment training to recipients of AFDC program benefits.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~yes~~ *no*. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: ~~no~~ *yes*.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to
2 provide fundamental educational competency training
3 opportunities for the recipients of Aid to Families with
4 Dependent Children (AFDC) program benefits. It is
5 essential for the successful transition of recipients to work
6 that they receive sufficient training to enable them to
7 find adequate employment to support themselves and
8 their families. California's community colleges are a
9 low-cost avenue that would provide recipients a sufficient
10 level of training to empower them to pursue
11 employment. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
12 California Community Colleges serve as ~~the vehicle~~ *one*
13 *of several means* to provide this needed employment
14 training.

15 (b) It is the further intent of the Legislature to require
16 ~~the State Department of Social Services to provide a~~
17 ~~liaison with the California Community College system to~~
18 *county welfare departments to provide a liaison with*
19 *local community colleges to coordinate the needed*
20 *competency training of recipients of AFDC program*
21 *benefits* and to facilitate the transition to employment for
22 recipients.

23 (c) *The Legislature also recognizes that education*
24 *greatly increases the chances of employment among*
25 *recipients, whether the pursuit is a short-term*
26 *educational goal that will lead to immediate employment*
27 *upon completion or the pursuit is a lower division*
28 *curriculum that will ultimately lead to an associate or*
29 *baccalaureate degree during or after time limits, because*
30 *the student's heightened educational level will make him*
31 *or her more attractive to potential employers. Motivated*
32 *recipients who are eligible for welfare benefits and meet*
33 *all other applicable eligibility requirements should not*
34 *experience barriers to short-term or long-term higher*
35 *education, as long as they meet all other program*
36 *requirements, since these pursuits create the greatest*
37 *chance of permanent separation from welfare.*

1 SEC. 2. Section 11261 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 ~~11261. (a) Any individual who is enrolled full time in~~
4 ~~a degree or certificate program that will lead to~~
5 ~~employment or who is enrolled at least half time in a~~

6 *11261. (a) Any individual who is enrolled at least*
7 *halftime in a lower division course curriculum that will*
8 *lead to an associate or baccalaureate degree or in a degree*
9 *or certificate program that will lead to employment and*
10 *who is also participating in the required number of hours*
11 *of work activities required under Section 407(c)(1) of the*
12 *Social Security Act* ~~—(42 U.S.C. Sec. 607 (c)(1)) shall~~
13 ~~be eligible to receive assistance—~~ *shall, upon request, be*
14 *provided child care and transportation under this section*
15 *if he or she meets all other applicable eligibility*
16 *requirements and he or she is making satisfactory*
17 *progress in the program in which he or she is enrolled.*

18 *(b) (1) The county welfare department shall*
19 *determine whether an educational program will lead to*
20 *employment. The county welfare department shall deem*
21 *a lower division or associate degree course curriculum*
22 *program that will lead to an associate or baccalaureate*
23 *degree to be a program that will lead to employment. If*
24 *the recipient disputes the county's determination,*
25 *paragraph (2) shall apply.*

26 *(2) For purposes of subdivision (a), an individual shall*
27 *be deemed to be enrolled in a program that will lead to*
28 *employment if the individual provides any of the*
29 *following:*

30 *(A) A signed statement from an employer stating that*
31 *he or she will employ the individual upon program*
32 *completion.*

33 *(B) A list of three employers in the area who have*
34 *frequent employment opportunities in the occupation*
35 *pursued by the individual at a skill level that can be*
36 *achieved by the individual through skill training*
37 *components offered by the program in which the*
38 *individual is enrolled.*

39 *(C) The statement of the governing body of a school*
40 *district, community college, university, local Job Training*

Partnership Act service delivery area administrating body, or any office of the Employment Development Department stating that the program will lead to employment.

~~(2) The county welfare department may waive the requirements of paragraph (1) if it determines that the program in which the individual is enrolled will lead to employment.~~

(c) Any individual who is eligible under this section shall be eligible to receive child care and transportation services during the period in which he or she participates in the program on which eligibility is based under this section.

(d) For purposes of this section, to the extent permitted by federal law, any of the following shall be characterized as work activities:

(1) Work and study programs.

(2) Paid and unpaid cooperative education programs.

(3) Community service.

(4) Internships.

(5) Work experience.

(6) Paid and unpaid private or public sector employment.

~~SEC. 3. The sum of _____ dollars (\$____) is hereby appropriated from the Federal Trust Fund to the~~

SEC. 3. Funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be provided to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges for the purposes of coordinating and implementing the provisions of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) with respect to assisting recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program benefits who are attending community college.

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title

1 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the
2 claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million
3 dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from
4 the State Mandates Claims Fund.

5 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government
6 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act
7 shall become operative on the same date that the act
8 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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10 CORRECTIONS

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12 Text — Page 4.

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